

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/GB2004/002389

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 G01N19/02

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G01N

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data; PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 3 828 605 A (FAZEKAS C) 13 August 1974 (1974-08-13) abstract; figures 1-5 column 2, line 12 - line 21 column 2, line 41 - line 47 column 3, line 7 - line 16	1-4, 6-8, 12-14, 16
X	US 4 813 266 A (NASH PATRICK L) 21 March 1989 (1989-03-21)	1, 7, 8, 16
Y	column 1, line 34 - column 2, line 21 column 2, line 22 - line 53 column 2, line 65 - column 3, line 8 column 4, line 33 - line 54 column 5, line 60 - column 6, line 3 column 6, line 28 - line 47	12-15
	-/-	

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

16 September 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

08/10/2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X A	DE 42 01 124 A (ELCON ELEKTROTECHNIK GMBH) 22 July 1993 (1993-07-22) abstract; figures 1,2 column 1, line 65 - column 2, line 2 column 4, line 27 - line 61	1-3,6-8, 16 12-15
X	GB 1 090 828 A (UNIV PENNSYLVANIA) 15 November 1967 (1967-11-15) page 1, column 2, line 60 - page 2, column 1, line 22; figure 1	1-3,6,8, 16
X A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 2002, no. 02, 2 April 2002 (2002-04-02) & JP 2001 296239 A (SUMIKIN KANSAI KOGYO KK; SUMITOMO KINZOKU TECHNOL KK), 26 October 2001 (2001-10-26) abstract	1-3,6-8, 16 12-15
X A	US 2 225 140 A (WALKER RALPH G) 17 December 1940 (1940-12-17) page 1, column 1, line 21 - line 33 page 1, column 2, line 17 - line 51 page 2, column 1, line 20 - line 28 page 2, column 1, line 43 - page 2, column 2, line 37	1 5
Y	US 3 893 330 A (SHUTE GEORGE A ET AL) 8 July 1975 (1975-07-08) abstract; figure 1 column 1, line 35 - column 2, line 50	12-15
A	AU 70212 74 A (WILL J G) 18 December 1975 (1975-12-18) claims 1-3; figures 1,2	4
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 2003, no. 02, 5 February 2003 (2003-02-05) & JP 2002 310890 A (HOKKAIDO DEVELOPMENT ENGINEERING CENTER; SORITON COM KK), 23 October 2002 (2002-10-23) abstract	1-16
A	US 5 107 448 A (NASH PATRICK L) 21 April 1992 (1992-04-21) abstract; figure 1	1-16
A	WO 98/35218 A (FLOOR SAFETY ENGINEERING INC) 13 August 1998 (1998-08-13) abstract; figures 1-3	1-16

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Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☒ Claims Nos.: 17
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box II.2

Claims Nos.: 17

Rule 6 .2(a) PCT

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.5), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

PCT/GB2004/002389

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 3828605	A	13-08-1974	NONE	
US 4813266	A	21-03-1989	NONE	
DE 4201124	A	22-07-1993	DE 4201124 A1	22-07-1993
GB 1090828	A	15-11-1967	US 3301039 A	31-01-1967
JP 2001296239	A	26-10-2001	NONE	
US 2225140	A	17-12-1940	NONE	
US 3893330	A	08-07-1975	NONE	
AU 7021274	A	18-12-1975	NONE	
JP 2002310890	A	23-10-2002	JP 3488699 B2	19-01-2004
US 5107448	A	21-04-1992	NONE	
WO 9835218	A	13-08-1998	AU 6156398 A WO 9835218 A1	26-08-1998 13-08-1998